REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated January 3, 2007, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Piccirillo et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0053010, hereinafter "Piccirillo"); 2) rejected claims 4, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Piccirillo in view of McKenzie (U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,398, hereinafter "McKenzie"); and 3) rejected claims 7, 16 and 19 as allegedly obvious over Piccirillo in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,706,407, hereinafter "Nakamura"). Applicants traverse all claim rejections for the reasons provided below.

The Examiner seems to have focused primarily on para. [0088] of Piccirillo which is as follows (emphasis added for purpose of a statement below regarding claim 10):

> [0088] The hot-plug events associated with the present system allow a user to remove a memory cartridge 25A-25E while the system remains operational. It may be desirable to be able to replace individual memory modules (DIMMs) while the system is still operational. Such a "hot-replace" feature provides the ability in a fault-tolerant memory configuration to **disable redundancy**, replace a failed DIMM with an equivalent DIMM, and then re-establish redundancy without significantly impacting normal system operation and without requiring the system to be powered down. Hot-replace is generally associated with a failure condition or a pre-failure condition. A failure condition will result in a light associated with one of the DS LEDs 144 being illuminated indicating which corresponding DIMM has failed. For a pre-failure condition, the host/data controller 16,18 will indicate which DIMM is faulty. Once a user is notified of the failure, a normal hot-plug procedure described with reference to Table 7 is initiated on the memory cartridge 25A-25E containing the faulty DIMM. **The system is taken out of a redundant mode of operation**, and the individual memory cartridge is powered-down. The user then replaces the faulty DIMM and inserts the memory cartridge back into the system. The memory cartridge is then powered-up in accordance with the procedure described with reference to Table 6. Once the memory cartridge is powered up, it is rebuilt and verified for functionality. If the memory cartridge has no faults, the system is returned to a redundant mode of operation.

Piccirillo teaches disabling the redundancy mode of a memory subsystem, replacing a failed DIMM, verifying that the replaced DIMM is functional, and then re-enabling the redundancy mode of the memory subsystem.
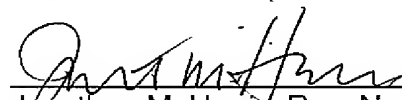
Claim 1 requires that a "memory module is present in the computer system but isolated wherein transactions that target said isolated memory module can complete without loss of data and without accessing said isolated memory module, and while isolated, said memory module is tested." Piccirillo does not teach completing transactions to an isolated memory module while the isolated memory module is being tested. Piccirillo does not teach that transactions are permitted to occur to a newly replaced DIMM while the DIMM is being verified. No other art of record satisfies this deficiency of Piccirillo. For at least this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

The remaining independent claims, and their dependent claims, are allowable for the same or similar reasons as claim 1. Applicants note also that claim 10 specifically requires that transactions complete to the isolated memory module "based on the redundancy." As highlighted in the quote above from Piccirillo, Piccirillo teaches disabling redundancy when replacing a failed DIMM. Because redundancy is disabled, clearly transactions cannot be completed based on the redundancy.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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